

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, cancel claims 15-17, and add new claims 21-24. A clean version is offered below and a marked-up version showing the changes is attached.

- B1
Gib
ca
1. (Twice Amended) A tablet composition free of food effect comprising:
- a core comprising from 20 to 80% by weight of verapamil and from 10 to 80% by weight of a gelling agent; and
 - a coating comprising, based on the weight of the coating, from 30 to 80% of a gastroresistant polymer soluble at a pH above 5.5 and from 10 to 40% of a hydrophilic silicon dioxide.

2. (Unchanged) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the gastroresistant polymer is selected from the group consisting of uncured poly(meth)acrylic acids, cellulose phthalates, alkylcellulose phthalates, an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and acrylic acid ethyl ester, and combinations thereof.

3. (Twice Amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises from 5 to 30% by weight based on the total weight of the coating of a plasticizer group consisting of polyethylene glycol, stearic acid, dibutyl sebacate, propylene glycol, triethyl citrate, and combinations thereof.

4. (Unchanged) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating represents from 0.5 to 6% by weight of the core weight.

B3
6. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises granules compressed together.

7. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1, further comprising an intermediate coating.

B3
CMT
8. (Amended) A composition according to claim 7, wherein the intermediate coating comprises hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose and polyethyleneglycol.

B
S
C
9. (Twice Amended) A tablet composition free of food effect comprising:

a) a core comprising from 20 to 80% by weight of verapamil and 10 to 80% by weight of a gelling agent; and

b) a coating comprising, based on the weight of the coating, from 30 to 80% of a gastroresistant polymer soluble at a pH above 5.5 comprising an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and acrylic acid ethyl ester, from 10 to 40% of a hydrophilic silicon dioxide.

Sub
D
10. (Twice Amended) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the coating further comprises from 5 to 30% by weight based on the total weight of the coating of a plasticizer group consisting of polyethylene glycol, stearic acid, dibutyl sebacate, propylene glycol, triethyl citrate, and combinations thereof.

Sub
D
11. (Twice Amended) A tablet composition free of food effect comprising:

a) a core comprising from 20 to 80% by weight of verapamil and from 10 to 80% by weight of a gelling agent; and

b) a coating comprising, based on the weight of the coating, from 30 to 80% of a gastroresistant polymer soluble at a pH above 5.5 comprising an anionic copolymer of methacrylic acid and acrylic acid ethyl ester, said copolymer imparting coating dissolution, from 10 to 40% by weight of a hydrophilic silicon dioxide, and from 5 to 30% by weight of polyethylene glycol.

Sub
D
12. (Unchanged) The composition according to claim 1, providing effective release of the active ingredient for a period of at least 8 hours.

Sub 4
13. (Unchanged) The composition according to claim 9, providing effective release of the active ingredient for a period of at least 8 hours.

14. (Unchanged) The composition according to claim 11, providing effective release of the active ingredient for a period of at least 8 hours.

DS
19. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, xanthan gum, carbomer, carragheen, polyethylene oxide, and combinations thereof.

20. (Amended) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, xanthan gum, carbomer, carragheen, polyethylene oxide, and combinations thereof.

Sub 4
21. (New) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the gelling agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, xanthan gum, carbomer, carragheen, polyethylene oxide, and combinations thereof.

Sub 4
22. (New) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the coating is soluble at a pH above 5.5.

23. (New) A composition according to claim 7, wherein the coating is soluble at a pH above 5.5.

24. (New) A composition according to claim 11, wherein the coating is soluble at a pH above 5.5.